

NOVEMBER 2018



Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church
Gainesville, Texas



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 2, 2018

On Sunday, December 2nd, there will be a congregational meeting after the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- ✓ To hear a report from the Nominations Committee and elect Ruling Elders for the Class of 2021.
- ✓ To elect congregational representatives to the Nominations Committee for 2018-19.
- ✓ To vote on any actions needed as Rev. Hare prepares to retire.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this important meeting!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Our annual Thanksgiving feast is planned for Sunday, November 18th, immediately following worship. The Fellowship committee is providing turkey & dressing, ham, rolls and drinks.

Please bring your favorite ample side dish of vegetable, salad or dessert to compliment the meal.

*** Plan to join us as we gather around the table with friends & family. ***



Rev. Hare will be out of the office on vacation from Monday, November 19th through Sunday, November 25th. Rev. Bob Hanson will be our guest preacher on Sunday, November 25th. In case of emergency while Rev. Hare is away, contact Matt Chalmers, Clerk of Session, or the church office.



Sunday, November 4, 2018



The Fellowship Committee needs

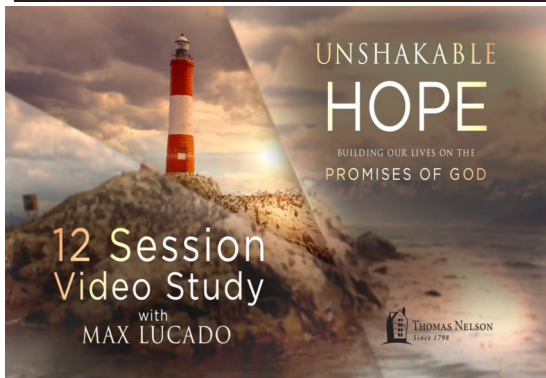
a little assistance!

If anyone could help provide refreshments during December, please contact June Sherrill. Thanks!



The regular meeting of the Session will be held on Sunday, November 11th at Noon in the Seekers' Classroom. This is a new meeting time for November due to the holiday dinner set for November 18th.

All written committee reports are due in the office by Thursday, November 8th.



New Study Starting November 4th in the Parlor

Join the Parlor Study Group Sundays at 9am.

Unshakable HOPE-Building our lives on the Promises of God

by Max Lucado

This 12 session video Bible study will help you see your problems in light of God's many promises in Scripture. The stories of the men and women in Scripture were different, but the theme was the same: they were people of the Promise. Like them, we can also build our lives on God's promises, and trust him to keep them.

The circumstances of life or the promises of God - upon which are you standing?



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - GAINESVILLE

T.E.A.M. UPDATES

First Presbyterian Church's "Adopt-A-School" project now has a new name and a new log! The name is "T.E.A.M." which stands for "The Edison Adopt-A-School Ministry" and the logo – well – you're looking at it! And here's the latest from TEAM:

- On Monday, November 5th, we will be providing breakfast for the teachers and staff during their "Staff Development Day." Donuts are on the menu – and volunteers representing the church are needed. We'll meet at the school at 8:00 AM.

- Every child loves to look at and read new books – so, beginning on Sunday, November 18th, there will be a "Reading Tree" in Tyler Hall. Each "leaf" on the "tree" will include the name of a book, the cost of the book and a return envelope. Please pick a "leaf" – put money or a check (made out to the church) to purchase the book in the envelope – and return it to the church by December 16th. The school will do all the ordering and paying – and the books will be placed in the school library.

Edison School has been overwhelmed by your prayers, your presence, and your support!

Keep up the good work!

Remember – this is a TEAM effort!



Annual Stewardship Drive

With the coming of the holiday season also comes that time of year when the Stewardship Ministry Committee begins its work to prepare our church's budget for 2019. An important part of that planning is our annual stewardship drive during which the members and friends of our church are asked to estimate their giving for next year.

On Wednesday, November 7th, the committee will be mailing out a letter thanking you for your past support for the church's ministry and a 2019 pledge card. Please prayerfully consider this important means of thanking God for all the blessings you have received.



Members Travel to Camp Gilmont for the 2018 PW Fall Gathering

Carol McBride, Sylvia Deaver and Pam Cooper enjoyed each others company on the 3 hour, rainy drive to Gilmer, Texas for the Annual PW Fall Gathering October 19th & 20th. Once there, the rain subsided and there was time for hiking, sipping coffee on the porch, walking on the labyrinth and a book discussion. There was a delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner. The keynote speaker on Saturday was Joanna Kim, Grace Presbytery's Director of Ministry Services. Joanna's topic was "Called to be One Body". Officers were installed. Reverend Lucia Kremzar led a Communion Service. Everyone had a great time and came away with new friendships. 60 women from different churches in the Grace Presbytery attended.



The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, November 27th at 8:00 AM at the Fried Pie on the square! All the men of the church are encouraged to come and enjoy a great time of food and for solving all the world's problems!



Rev. Hare's Sunday sermons are available on the church webpage! Just go to www.fpcgainesville.net – click on the "Sermons" link at the top of the page – then click on the dropdown tab – and you're there!

HELP US DECORATE!

On Sunday, November 25th after church we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season – and volunteers are needed!

There are trees to be put up – wreaths to be hung – lights to be strung and lots of other projects to be done to make the church ready for Advent – so plan on staying after church!

Oh – lunch will be provided for everyone who stays – just in case that makes it easier for you to volunteer.

Contact June Sherrill for information.

Christmas Concert

It's time to mark your calendars for a special Christmas season event!

On Saturday, December 15th, our choir will be presenting a Christmas concert featuring Johann Sebastian Bach's "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" as well as a Christmas Songfest beginning at 7:00 PM in the church sanctuary.

Everyone is invited – and the best part is that it's free!

Mark those calendars and invite your friends and neighbors to join you as we celebrate the Christmas season!



We have two new members for Angel Box. Pam Cooper & Sheri Raney. Our group is growing. Some can't make our painting group on the fourth Monday of each month but they work at home to finish the beautiful boxes that bring comfort to Mothers who have lost their babies at birth.

This month we sent ten boxes to the Inspiva Health Net Work in Newfield NJ. We sent nine boxes to Loyola University in Maywood, IL. The end of March. They were even in the news at that time for their basket ball team. It was sort of a coincidence

I want to thank everyone who participates in our mission. We receive some wonderful thank you notes from most hospitals. We have sent boxes all over the US. We also deliver boxes to NTMC here in Gainesville.

If you're are interested in joining us check with any member to make sure we are meeting.

Thanks, Retha Bond

Members: Lydia Ansley, Retha Bond, Patty Camp, Pam Cooper, Sylvia Deaver, Heidi Klutschkowski, Kay Marshall, Susan Moss, Sheri Raney & Ginger Walker.

“FAITH IN ACTION SUNDAY” HIGH-LIGHTS

The 2018 “Faith in Action Sunday” is now in the books – and we did a lot of mission! Our 21 volunteers packed 183 packets of goodies for VISTO’s “Backpack Buddies” ministry, created and distributed 70 “Loads of Love” detergent packages to two local laundromats, created and delivered 210 “Thinking of You” cards to three area nursing homes, and put together and delivered 8 full breakfasts to our area’s first responders – the police department, sheriff’s department, 3 fire stations and 3 EMS stations!

Thanks to everyone who baked, bought, packed, signed and delivered!

GIFT

Girls In Fun Together

November 1, 2018

5:30pm

The New Ranch House



WOMEN OF FAITH IN SERVICE AWARD LUNCHEON 2017

Celebrating Ecumenical Service in Cooke County

You and your friends of all faiths are invited to the
2018 Annual Award Luncheon

November 2, 2018

12 Noon NO CHARGE

Faith Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
1823 Luther Lane, Gainesville

Spirit-Moving and Heart-Swelling Gospel Singing, Too!

THANK YOU

Hello!

Beth Japp REALLY appreciated all the cards, prayers, and good wishes she received for her birthday!

It is wonderful her church family remembers her 3 years after she left, and she looks forward to the weekly church information that is sent to her with the church news.

Thank you all! (her daughter Susan Wesselman)

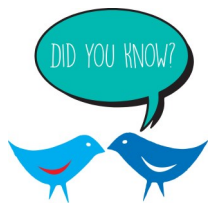
PS: Barbara, the sentence inside the envelope made both of us really laugh!

Casting Call!!

The best way to get into the holiday spirit is to be a part of the Live Nativity. This is the casting call for Saturday, December 8th. There are two casts: Cast I performs at 6:00, 7:00 & 8:00pm and Cast II performs at 6:30, 7:30, & 8:30pm. All cast members are to arrive 30 minutes prior to their first shift. You, your family and extended family, friends, neighbors and co-workers are invited to be cast members.

Sign-up sheets for Saturday night performance will be on the bulletin board soon!

*We are in need for two volunteers to work with the costumes during this year's nativity scene. These volunteers will get the costumes ready for the performance as well as work with the cast members.



- That Mary Estill, Corie Autry and Tommie Newman did great jobs as November's Pulpit assistants?
- That Carla and Charlie Waters appreciate your continued prayers?
- That our special offering for "Solar Under The Sun" Ministries raised \$126.50 – and That we will be contributing a total of \$200.00?
- That Joy Hague is getting married this month?
- That Andy Bentley is recovering from a broken leg?
- That Cameron Gilliland has started his own business in Granbury?
- That Carla Waters is now hanging out at Select Rehabilitation Hospital of Denton?
- That our church's Nominating Committee will soon be looking for folks to serve on the Session?
- That Shana and John Powell had a great vacation in Minnesota and beyond?
- That June Sherrill and friends has a great trip to Northern Michigan?
- That Ruthie Chalmers is slowly recovering from her recent surgery?
- That Kay Marshall is also recovering from recent surgery?



Elsewhere in this newsletter there's an article about a concert our choir will be offering as part of our Advent season. The featured piece of music is one written by J. S. Bach, and promises to be a great concert.

Bach had a unique talent that showed up in all his music. He had the ability to combine the technical with the creative. His music always reflected what folks called the basic aspects – notes, harmonies, scales, chords, time signatures, clefs and so on. Those were the "meat-and-potatoes" of music and Bach certainly did all of that well.

But he is most remembered today for his ability to take the technicalities and make them memorable. He could take a note or a chord or a harmony and create something that was unique and special. Bach knew the basics – but he also knew what to do with them.

We, as a church, must have that same ability. We know the "basics" of our faith and of how worship and conduct our ministries. We must also be able to take those "basics" and make them unique and special and relative to not only ourselves but to those who we are called to serve. Knowing the basics makes us a church – but it's our creativity that makes us disciples.

What most folks don't know is that Bach understood where his abilities came from and what they were to be used for. He always added an inscription to each of his musical pieces: "to God alone be the glory." Let's make sure that we add that same inscription to all we do, as well.

Peace, John

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First Presbyterian Church

Save the Date!

It's almost Christmas time and you know what that means-
The Annual Presbyterian Women's Christmas Coffee

When: December 8th @ 9:30am

Where: Tyler Hall

What do we do?: Have fun, bring goodies to share and for the "Goodie Plates" we put together for our friends who can't make it to Church anymore and to our wonderful church staff.

This notice is to give you plenty of time to put it on your calendar.

Bring a friend, too.